

Lesson
1

What Is a Clause?

Teaching

A **clause** is a group of words that contains both a subject and a verb. There are two kinds of clauses: independent and dependent.

An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. An independent clause is also called a **main clause**.

The gardener calculated the total area.

SUBJECT VERB

A **dependent clause** contains a subject and a verb, but it does not express a complete thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence. Another name for a dependent clause is a **subordinate clause**. Most dependent clauses are introduced by words like *although, before, because, so that, when, while, so, and that*.

after she had measured the plot carefully

A dependent clause can be joined to an independent clause to express a complete thought.

The gardener calculated the total area after she had measured the plot carefully.

Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause and **DEP** for dependent clause.

1. **Joyce enjoyed geometry** more than she enjoyed algebra. _____
2. She liked the fact **that the class began with simple shapes**. _____
3. **A point was the first thing** that the students learned about. _____
4. **A point has no length or width**. _____
5. When you study geometry, **you must use terms accurately**. _____
6. For example, you may not say *line* **when you mean line segment**. _____
7. A triangle, **which everyone recognizes**, is a shape made of three line segments. _____
8. An equilateral triangle is a triangle **whose three sides are equal**. _____
9. An isosceles triangle is different **because it has only two equal sides**. _____
10. When Nick draws triangles, **he uses a ruler**. _____
11. **Every square is a rectangle**, but not every rectangle is a square. _____
12. What is the reason **why this is true?** _____
13. **There are some statements about shapes** that cannot be proved. _____
14. Statements **that cannot be proved** are called theorems. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses

Identify each boldfaced group of words by writing **IND** for independent clause and **DEP** for dependent clause.

1. The facts **that are taught in math classes** can be useful in practical problems. _____
2. Although Gene wants to paint his room, **he needs to buy paint first.** _____
3. He must figure the wall area **so that he'll buy the right amount of paint.** _____
4. **First he measures the length of each wall and the height of the room.** _____
5. Then he measures the windows and doors, **which do not need to be painted.** _____
6. **Gene calculates the area of the total wall space,** and then he subtracts the area of the windows and doors. _____
7. Most people can do the math easily **when they use calculators or computers.** _____
8. Before you can multiply or subtract, **you must decide which numbers to use.** _____
9. Gene learned the formulas **that he applies** in his grade school math classes. _____
10. He won't waste money **if he measures and calculates correctly.** _____

B. Identifying and Correcting Fragments

This paragraph includes several dependent clauses that are not attached as they should be to independent clauses. Rewrite the paragraph, connecting the dependent clauses to appropriate independent clauses. Rearrange the order of clauses as needed.

When Lindy took up crocheting. She started with a scarf. She chose three colors. That she particularly liked. Directions for the scarf were in a magazine. Lindy decided to make the scarf shorter than the one shown in the magazine. Because she wasn't sure of her ability. The scarf turned out well. When she went on to her next project. Lindy tried gloves. Which required more skill. That project turned out well too.

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Application

A. Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses

If an item is a sentence consisting of only one independent clause, write **IND** on the line. If it is a fragment consisting of only a dependent clause, write **DEP**. If the item is a sentence consisting of both an independent and a dependent clause, write either **IND + DEP** or **DEP + IND** to show the order of clauses.

EXAMPLE After the snow fell. *DEP*

1. We had to leave the party because the room was so crowded. _____
2. Although the competition was rough. _____
3. Daisy drove the yellow car out to her cousin's home in the country. _____
4. Since Beverly's voice is strong, she won the lead in the musical. _____
5. Jeffrey likes music that was written over 300 years ago. _____
6. Because the rain was so heavy. _____
7. Jay asked the store clerk for directions. _____
8. After the bees chased us inside, we watched TV. _____
9. That grew almost six feet tall. _____
10. Dinah read a magazine while she waited for the bus. _____

B. Correcting Fragments

In Exercise A, which items were fragments with the answer DEP? Write the numbers of those items on the lines below. Then complete each item by adding an independent clause to the dependent clause. Write the corrected sentence after the item number.

EXAMPLE After the snow fell.
After the snow fell, we had a snowball fight.

Revision of # _____

Revision of # _____

Revision of # _____
